

Oral Testimony Presented to the
Insurance and Real Estate Committee of the Connecticut
General Assembly

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**IN SUPPORT OF CONNECTICUT SENATE BILL
418:
AN ACT CONCERNING OFF LABEL
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

Good afternoon Senator Crisco, Representative Megna, and
Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

Thank you for allowing me to present this afternoon. I'm
writing to ask you to vote YEA on Senate Bill 418.

As a registered nurse, educating and caring for those with
chronic disease over the years, I have seen first hand the
emotional burden, physical toll, and enormous stress that
the men, women, and children of the state of Connecticut
go through when fighting for coverage of their prescription
drugs.

While Connecticut does have a framework in place
addressing insurance company coverage of off-label
medications, it is outdated and creates hours of inefficient
appealing and often confusing push back for both patients
and prescribers.

To help you understand what I see, I ask you to imagine a

family member of yours: your wife, husband, or mother, having a chronic illness. Together, you visit your specialist, who states that after your husband or wife has failed multiple medications to slow down the illness, they would like to prescribe a medication which originally came on the market with an indication for another purpose, but your specialist decides, that yes, from the literature they have recently read, this may provide meaningful relief and benefit your loved ones illness.

With a glimmer of hope, you head home and to the pharmacy, only to discover that your health insurance company claims the medication is either “not medically necessary” or “experimental treatment”. From the sidelines, you watch as a complicated process unravels: you and your healthcare provider appeal, the healthcare provider writes letter after letter with evidence from published clinical studies, even getting on the phone with a healthcare company physician, for a peer to peer. Your husband or wife is getting worse, perhaps with a progressive illness where time is critical, and you’re taking time off of work to care for them. In the end, you lose the fight. The specialist says, “I’m sorry, your wife hasn’t responded to any of the medications that the insurance company will cover. There’s nothing more I can do.”

Now is the time to change the ending to that story. Now is the time for you to vote YEA on Senate Bill 418, and make the men, women, and children of the great state of Connecticut proud of where they live. Help Connecticut be a leader in supporting the health of its people. Help Connecticut be a place where medical professionals can practice and focus on medicine, not on piles of paperwork to fight outdated laws.

I urge you to vote YEA on SB 418.

Thank you for hearing my testimony today.

Sincerely,

Marina Creed, RN, BSN, MSCN

